GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:147
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
UPLINKING FACILITY TO FOREIGN NEWS CHANNELS
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide uplinking facility to the foreign owned news channels;

(b) if so, this move is likely to affect Prasar Bharati in any manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has demanded that the broadcasting band in VSAT transmissionshould also be brought under its purview delinking it from the Communications Ministry;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether opinions of the Defence, External and Home Ministries have also been taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the final decisions taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (g): The Government has for the first time, received an application from a wholly owned foreign company for uplinking a 24-hour news channel from India which is India focussed. This has necessitated a re-look at the existing uplinking policy in so far as it relates to the News and Current Affairs Channels and technology neutral guidelines foruplinking. For this consultations with various Ministries have been undertaken and it is proposed to take the matter to the Cabinet for consideration.

As per the extant policy, all TV channels irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure) or management control aimed at Indian viewership, are permitted to uplink from India subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions including, inter-alia, adherence to programme and advertisement codes.